

OFFICE MEMORANDUM • STANFORD UNIVERSITY

To : R. H. Alway, M.D.

DATE: July 16, 1958

FROM : Lyle E. Cook

SUBJECT: Grants and equipment for Joshua L. Lederberg

Activation of research project grants. There is nothing in the regulations that would prevent Professor Lederberg from activating new grants early in 1959, provided (a) he is here then, or (b) it is necessary to have funds for purchase of equipment to be delivered in time for inauguration of active research in mid-1959. It seems to me that the latter situation is the most likely, and that it would appear reasonable to NIH or NSF. Another proviso is that applications can be prepared and filed in time for early 1959 activation.

A table showing various deadline dates for NIH applications is enclosed. The application deadline for January, February or March activation was July 1. It is possible that an application filed by November 1 and reviewed by the National Advisory Council in February-March could be activated by April 1. Grants are sometimes retroactive, so there is some flexibility which should permit us to work out a satisfactory schedule.

National Science Foundation research proposals may be submitted at any time, but several months usually elapse between the receipt of a proposal and the issuance of a grant. At Stanford the period averages between six and seven months, thus a proposal to be activated in April, 1959, should be submitted in September or October, 1958.

If Professor Lederberg could prepare draft proposals this summer, we could review them when he is here in September and submit them that month. If he is in Washington, or could write to NIH or NSF, he might get an informal opinion as to the possibility of more rapid than usual action. This is possible with NSF, as the following quote from the guide indicates:

"When the principal investigator changes his organizational affiliation and desires support for his research at his new location, he must submit a new proposal via the appropriate officials of the new institution. Although such proposals will be reviewed in the normal manner every effort will be made to expedite a decision.

"Any uncommitted funds from the original grant must be returned to the Foundation. Regardless of the action taken on the new proposal, final reports on the original grant, describing scientific progress and expenditure to date, will be required."

Title to equipment purchased with NIH or NSF grant funds normally vests in the grantee institution. I have found nothing that specifically covers transfer of equipment with the move of an investigator from one institution to another. When equipment is no longer needed (at the grantee institution) ^{by} the investigator for which it was originally purchased it is occasionally transferred, but usually only if it is highly specialized or very expensive. At Washington University, Professor

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Kornberg purchased items of equipment costing \$16,500 and \$30,000 with NIH funds even though his use of it would be limited to two years. This was done with NIH knowledge that similar equipment would be needed by him and his associates at Stanford. Thus, NIH seems to favor making new grants to equip the laboratories in the investigator's new location.

Purchase of equipment with Stanford funds for use at Wisconsin would seem to me to require only administrative approval of the Dean of the Medical School. This would require use of Medical School construction and equipment budget funds because no grant funds are now available for Professor Lederberg. However, if Professor Lederberg will have unexpended funds under his Wisconsin grants and the desired equipment would be an appropriate purchase from such funds, it would seem easier for him to make the purchase anticipating purchasing similar equipment from a grant made to Stanford. He will be in the best position to judge this.

An extra copy of this memo is enclosed in case you wish to send it to Professor Lederberg.

Lyle E. Cook

cc: General Secretary